

*Hafa Adai!*

'NMI more prepared today for strong typhoon' **PAGE 2**  
Kosrae gets \$1.5M to build COVID-19 quarantine facilities. **PAGE 6**

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 236

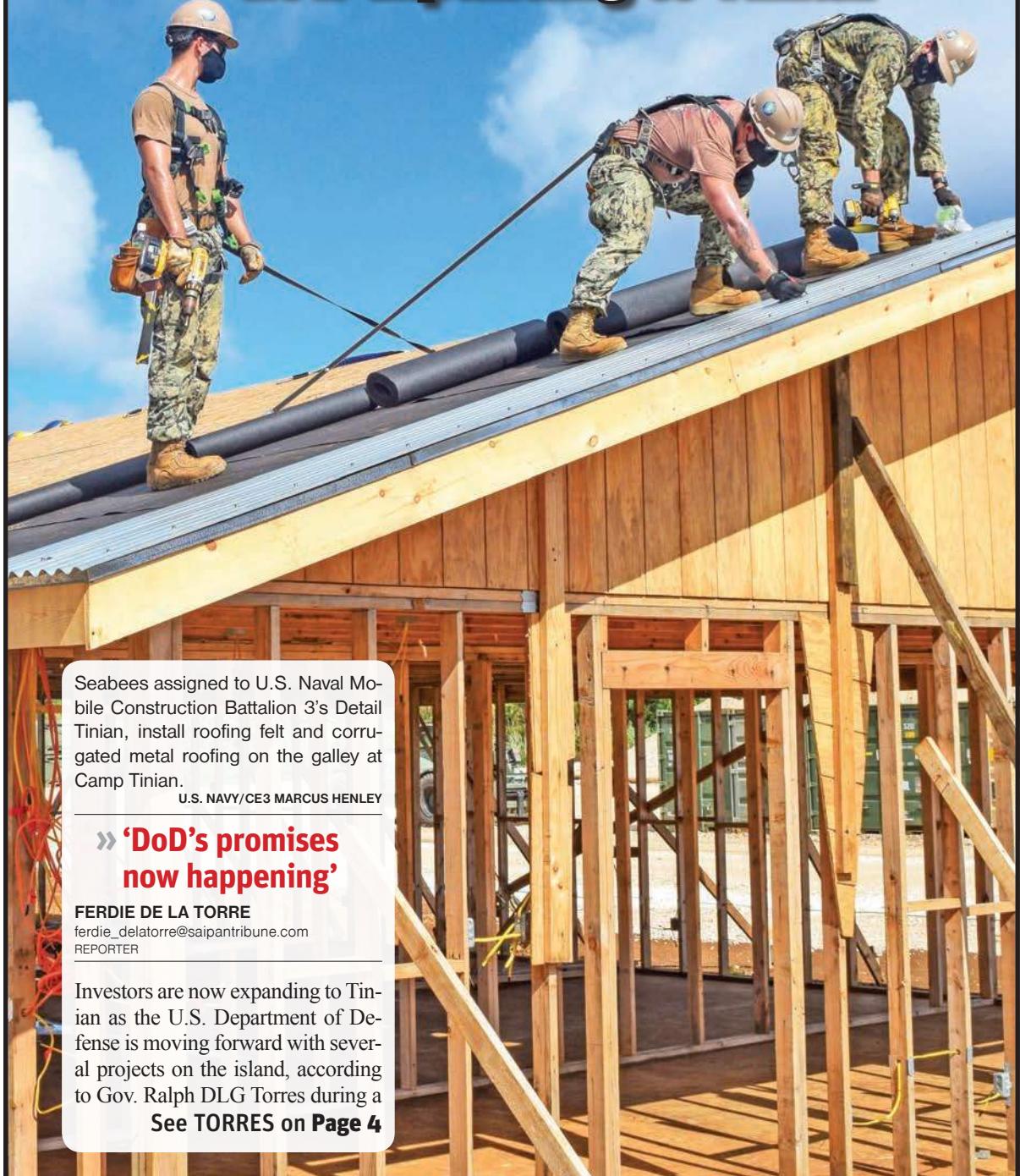
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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2020

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## 100 days with zero transmission

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U.S. NAVY/CE3 MARCUS HENLEY

» 'DoD's promises now happening'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

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See TORRES on Page 4

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

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kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

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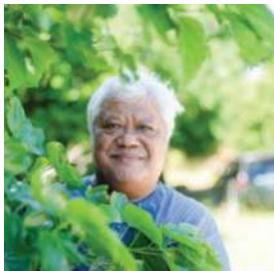
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However, in a previous interview

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#### NATION

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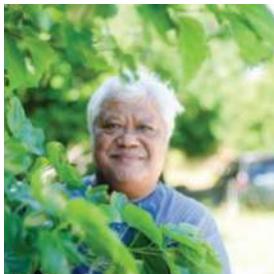
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# Local

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### ‘NMI more prepared today’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the government is more prepared today in the event another strong typhoon hits the CNMI this typhoon season.

His concern, however, Torres said, is more focused on those people who are still living in tents or those who still have pending home repairs with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“We’ve been through this before,” said the governor in a radio news briefing last week, when asked if the CNMI is prepared in case there of another devastating typhoon this year.

Torres said he, special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Gerald Guerrero, special assistant in the Office of Management and Budget Vicky Villagomez, Governor’s Authorized Representative Patrick Guerrero, and others “have been down this road.”

“So, in terms of being prepared, I believe that we are more prepared today than we were ever,” Torres said.

The governor said they continue to work with FEMA on how to expedite the process for those who are still in tents and are still waiting for FEMA’s assistance. “There’s so many different challenges. And that is my concern: those folks that are still in...tents,” he said.

So far, no typhoon has hit the CNMI this year.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service Forecast Office Guam, typhoons can occur throughout the year in the Marianas region, but tropical depressions usually form between July and November.

The National Weather Service’s forecast for this year is one to three tropical depressions or tropical storms, followed by two or three typhoons between mid-July and November.

In 2019, there were several near-misses, but there were no direct hits in the CNMI and Guam.

In 2019, Super Typhoon Hagibis passed just north of Saipan.

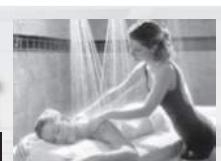
Super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu caused massive destruction on Saipan and Tinian in 2015 and 2018, respectively.



**Torres**

### » **Torres more concerned for those still in tents**

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## IPI to start removing crane next month

**FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is going to remove early next month one tower crane that remains atop the Imperial Pacific Resort building in Garapan.

IPI resident project director Jing

Zhou told the Commonwealth Casino Commission Tuesday that IPI had signed an agreement with AM Group to take down crane No. 4.

In his progress report about Imperial Pacific Resort, Zhou said AM Group is going to have a subcontractor that will dismantle the crane starting early December.

There are four tower cranes at the construction site.

CCC chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero has been bringing up with IPI during past monthly meetings the need to remove the cranes that are no longer needed.

Deleon Guerrero raised safety issues as it poses a danger to motorists

and those walking in the area, especially during this typhoon season.

Zhou said construction work has been suspended at the site since the Department of Public Works issued a stop-work order on the company last Oct. 27.

Zhou said they worked with DPW Building Safety Code Division officers and DR Safety, which is the engineer of record and special inspection services contractor, to complete DPW's requirements.

Zhou said they have a total of 201 H2B workers, excluding the 15 management staff. He said they have 63 Taiwanese, three Thais,

### » IPI has 201 H2B workers

He said construction of Phase 3, which is level 2 VIP gaming and Level 14 sky level, may be completed on April 30, 2022, if they have a manpower of 2,000.

Zhou said construction of Phase 4, which is the Beach Club, will start in February 2022 and they forecast it will be completed by Dec. 31, 2022, if they have 2,000 workers.

Tinian," Torres said.

The governor said that people will see more DoD projects on the island in the next couple of years.

Torres thanked the Triple J Group of Companies as among those businesses that are expanding to Tinian. "That's a great honor and great blessing for us to see our business partners here expanding to Tinian," he said.

The governor also noted that Tan-Holdings has also invested on Rota.

"So when you see these local investors making that additional investment on our brothers and sisters of Rota and Tinian, then they also see the light at the end of the tunnel," Torres said.

With respect to Rota, Torres said the island has roughly \$6 million or \$7 million in disaster relief that will be intended for projects that Mayor Efraim M. Atalig has identified as a priority.

The governor also disclosed that he had just met with officials of the Department of Public Lands, which is working on giving more agricultural homesteads lots on both Rota and Tinian. "So, hopefully in the next few months, we will see more agriculture homesteads being open on both islands," he added.

## GCA students excel at PGFC competition

All 16 new and old competitors who competed in the second virtual monthly qualifying Primary Grades Forensic Conference won in most of their events in the November competition. The eight first placers are from Grace Christian Academy.

Most of the students placed in all events since the start of the competition in October. First grader Matua Wyatt Puguon in K-2 Division said that he is happy that he won again in Impromptu Speaking and also won in Duo Interpretation with his brother Wigan Thor in second grade. "I am excited to compete again in January," he said.

Fourth grader Hans Gabriel Ordas in 3-5 Division said, "It is an honor to compete with so many competitors from different schools. I would like to thank Ms. Esther and my parents for guiding me in this competition."

There is minimal practice in school due to protocols, so students practice mostly at home and send videos to the coaches. All events are prerecorded videos except for Impromptu Speaking, which is live via Google meet app.

PGFC competition encourages public and private school students from Kindergarten 5 to fifth grade to participate in and become proficient in the forensic performing arts:

reading, public speaking, and interpretation.

The administration, faculty & staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners who participated in this competition.

### K-2 DIVISION

#### Dramatic Interpretation

Solen Divanica Camacho, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

#### Humorous Interpretation

Fiona Yu, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

#### Reader's Forum A

Wigan Thor Puguon, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

#### Reader's Forum Masters A

Mirielle Isla Badal, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

#### Reader's Forum Masters B

Fiona Yu, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

#### Impromptu Speaking A

Matua Wyatt Puguon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

#### Duo Interpretation B

Matua Wyatt Puguon, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

#### 3-5 DIVISION

#### Declamation

Hans Gabriel Ordas, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

#### Dramatic Interpretation

Catalina Marie Frink, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Nerissa Corinne Xiao Liu, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

#### Duo Interpretation

Llyanna Jairah Libut, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Eliane Nerrise Pagaduan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

#### Humorous Interpretation

Catalina Marie Frink, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Chloe Hayul Shin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Baila Marie Loomis, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

#### Impromptu Speaking A

Hans Gabriel Ordas, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

#### Impromptu Speaking B

Remelene Geoliz Falig, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

#### Reader's Forum A

Anne Gabriel Arriola, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Baila Marie Loomis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

#### Reader's Forum B

Eliane Nerrise Pagaduan, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Llyanna Jairah Libut, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

#### Reader's Forum C

Breanna May Lopez, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Mariska Badal, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Nerissa Corinne Xiao Liu, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

#### PGFC coach/coordinator: Esther Manzano (PR)

archives, the federal court ordered Gold Mantis to answer in writing no later than Nov. 15, at 5pm why the court should not treat its non-compliance as contempt of court and why the court should not impose a sanction requiring it to pay a \$2,000 daily fine from the time all discovery and affidavits were to be produced.

The judge also wants Gold Mantis to explain why a default judgment should not be entered against it.

In a response from Gold Mantis attorney Tiberius Mocanu, he asked the court to give the company an opportunity to produce the necessary information by Nov. 25, and to not order a default judgement.

FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor approved the CNMI for a FEMA grant under the Lost Wages Assistance program to allow the CNMI to provide \$300 per week on top of regular unemployment benefit to those unemployed due to COVID-19.

FEMA is working with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to implement a system to make the funding available to CNMI residents.

Back on Aug. 8, 2020, President Donald Trump made available up to \$44 billion from FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund to provide financial assistance to Americans who have

Mocanu explained that production of discovery has been difficult as Gold Mantis does not have any personnel physically present in the CNMI.

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu and Duxin Yan—sued Gold Mantis and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC over labor and other alleged violations.

Halegua and his co-counsel, Bruce Berline, asked the court to issue an order awarding the plaintiffs \$3.86 million in compensatory damages and \$7.72 million in punitive damages.

Gold Mantis is a former subcontractor of IPI.

lost wages due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CNMI agreed to administer a lost wages program for its citizens who are unemployed due to COVID-19.

The administration had a ballpark estimate of \$17 million to \$25 million funding needed to match the federal assistance program.

Since applying for the program, Benavente said the CNMI government has been looking at where to source the hundred dollars and has discussed the challenge with its FEMA partners.

and those walking in the area, especially during this typhoon season.

Zhou said construction work has been suspended at the site since the Department of Public Works issued a stop-work order on the company last Oct. 27.

Zhou said they worked with DPW Building Safety Code Division officers and DR Safety, which is the engineer of record and special inspection services contractor, to complete DPW's requirements.

Zhou said they have a total of 201 H2B workers, excluding the 15 management staff. He said they have 63 Taiwanese, three Thais,

106 Mongolians, one Italian, and 28 Turkish workers.

Zhou said construction of Phase 2 of the tower hotel level 3 to 13 is expected to be completed on Dec. 31, 2021, assuming they have 2,000 workers.

He said construction of Phase 3, which is level 2 VIP gaming and Level 14 sky level, may be completed on April 30, 2022, if they have a manpower of 2,000.

Zhou said construction of Phase 4, which is the Beach Club, will start in February 2022 and they forecast it will be completed by Dec. 31, 2022, if they have 2,000 workers.

## GOLD

*From Page 1*

court for violating her discovery order, and imposed a fine of \$2,000 per day until Gold Mantis complies.

Manglona also told Gold Mantis that this was the final warning and she would enter a default judgment if they do not comply by Dec. 28.

In addition, Manglona stated that she expects to schedule a hearing next week on the plaintiffs' motion requesting that IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne be jailed if IPI does not comply with the order to pay attorneys' fees.

According to *Saipan Tribune*

## FEMA

*From Page 1*

with CNMI Department of Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, she said the CNMI is still awaiting FEMA's decision on the CNMI's request for a waiver on the matching fund requirement. The program will provide 75% of the funds that will be disbursed, while the CNMI is required to foot 25% of the amount. The CNMI has asked FEMA to waive that requirement and provide 100% of the funds.

According to FEMA's website,

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*From Page 1*

last case of community transmission in the CNMI was recorded on Aug. 18, 2020, the CNMI's 54th COVID-19 case.

Last Monday, 36 incoming passengers were swabbed and tested negative for COVID-19. Last Nov. 24, 93 passengers were swabbed on their fifth day of testing and were all negative for COVID-19.

"It takes an average of 5-6 days for an infected person with the coronavirus to start showing symptoms. Testing five days after arrival will help find those who were not showing any signs of infection (asymptomatic) or have tested negative upon arrival," said a CHCC statement.

It cautioned, however, that, despite the lack of local transmission cases, "we should still not let our guard down."

### COVID-19 in Guam

Guam has had two more COVID-19-related fatalities—a 61-year-old male and a 64-year-old female—yesterday, bringing the death toll to 111.

The Joint Information Center in Guam stated that Guam's 110th CO-

VID-19-related fatality happened at the Guam Memorial Hospital at approximately 9:40am yesterday. The patient was a 61-year-old male with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. He was admitted to GMH on last Oct. 15, and was a known positive case.

Guam's 111th COVID-19-related fatality also happened at the GMH at approximately 12:33pm. The patient was a 64-year-old female with underlying conditions that were further compounded by COVID-19. She was admitted to GMH last Nov. 8, and was a known positive case.

Additionally, 43 of 237 individuals tested yesterday tested positive for COVID-19. To date, there have been a total of 6,748 officially reported cases of COVID-19 in Guam, with 111 deaths, 1,680 cases in active isolation and 4,957 not in active isolation.

As of Nov. 26, 2020, Guam's COVID-19 Area Risk or CAR Score is 6.8 and will be recalculated once reports from all participating labs are up to date. The CAR Score accounts for the incidence of new cases, how well current testing identifies these cases, and the rate of spread. An ideal CAR Score for Guam would be 5.0 and below.

## DFW director pleads guilty to DUI

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manuel "Manny" Pangelinan has pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol and was sentenced to one-year imprisonment.

Pangelinan pleaded guilty to one count of DUI last Thursday before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo; the other charges—reckless driving, no

registration, and lack of safety inspection—were dropped.

According to an email from Pangelinan's lawyer, Robert Torres, Pangelinan was sentenced to 12 months in prison, all suspended except for three days, with credit for 10 hours of time served.

Pangelinan was then sentenced to 12 months' probation, and ordered to pay a \$500 fine, \$25 court fee, and a \$120 probation fee. Pangelinan was also ordered to participate in an alcohol

information class and was prohibited from consuming and possessing any alcohol during his probation.

According to court information, at around 8:30pm on June 12, Pangelinan received a call from his staff about a fire in Lower Base. That fire engulfed the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's warehouse. Pangelinan proceeded to the location, because of DFW offices and warehouse's close proximity to the fire. That's where Pangelinan encountered Department of Public Safety police

officers who were blocking off the area. Pangelinan was questioned and later arrested for DUI. He allegedly admitted that he already had a drink prior to going to the site.

In a statement from Pangelinan, he said he has learned his lesson the hard way and will use the experience to work to improve himself. He also thanked DPS and DOC officers for their professionalism and respectful treatment at all times.

"I apologize for my poor judgment. I should not have driven to the scene after drinking alcohol. I am sorry for the troubles I caused the police officers that evening,

as they were doing their job. I accept responsibility for my actions. I apologize to the community, my family

and my coworkers for my actions reflecting poorly on me and without thinking of them," he said.

## TanHoldings helps organizations revamp sites

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

To help revamp sites that were damaged by previous typhoons, TanHoldings Corp. has set aside money to help 32 organizations maintain facilities, sites, and locations around the island.

Speaking at the radio news briefing last Nov. 25, Alex A. Sablan, TanHoldings Corporate Business Development vice president, who is also chairman of the Tourism and Infrastructure Reboot Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, said that the TanHoldings effort is part of the Public-Private Partnership program of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers and is focused on providing funds to groups that may want to take part in efforts to transform sites in the CNMI to make them "aesthetically more presentable."



Sablan

have, as the governor stated, world-class sites developed after we've worked on these transformation efforts," said Sablan.

He added that they are picking up new partners every week and that the Chamorro, Carolinian, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Bangladesh, etc. communities have been proactive with picking up trash.

As of Nov. 18, the 32 organizations that have signed up for the PPP include the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, International Roller Skates, Tasi and the Ali's, DiveWish, Loco and Taco Dining Bar, Bibong Corp. (Marianas LightHouse), P&A Corp., Marianas

Racing Association, TanHoldings/Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Kanoa Football Club, Beach Road Tourism Development, Inc., E-Land Group, Bridge Capital LLC, Rotary Club of Saipan,

Emon Masonic Lodge 179, Rota Mayor's Office, Fil-Corp, Rota Merchandising, DK Brother, Hotel Valentino, Commonwealth Ports Authority- Saipan and Rota, Lions Club International District 204, Region 2, Airport Operators Committee, POI Aviation, Triathlon Association of CNMI, NMI Cycling Federation, CTSI Logistics, Northern Marianas Islands Football Association, United Filipino Organization, Korean Community of Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, and the Chinese Association of Saipan.

Sablan lauded Edna Grace Nisola, TanHoldings public relations officer, and Tatiana Babauta, Marianas Visitors Authority's product development officer, for helping the organizations get permitting for the projects that they are taking on.

If any organization would like to join the GCEA PPP, they can contact Nisola at 233-8080, where she can help them with their process of joining the program.

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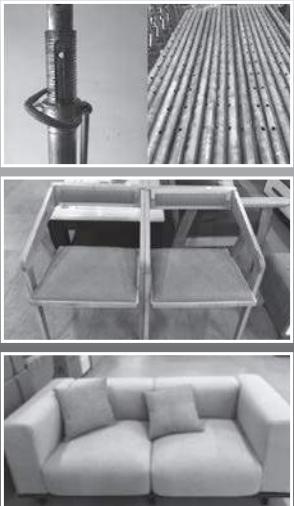
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# Kosrae gets \$1.5M to build COVID-19 quarantine facilities

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced yesterday that \$1,530,000 in Compact of Free Association and CARES Act funding has been ap-

proved to help build several quarantine buildings in Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia.

"We are glad to see that construction has begun on new buildings to be used in Kosrae

State for quarantine and isolation purposes during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic," said assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. "This important support provided by

the Compact and the CARES Act will help Kosrae isolate and address potential COVID-19 cases, thereby reducing the potential for community transmission of the disease as repatriations and the relaxing



Domenech

of travel restrictions are considered."

In March of 2020, the FSM government restricted travel due to the onset of the global coronavirus pandemic and, to date, the FSM has no reported cases of the coronavirus. The U.S. government has been providing ongoing support and assistance to the FSM and the other freely associated states to help address the pandemic.

Certain economic assistance provisions under the Compact of Free Association agreement (U.S. Public Law 108-188) between the FSM and the United States are set to expire in 2023. Bilateral discussions are underway related to the expiring provisions. (PR)

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### High risk of rip currents 'til Saturday

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents through Saturday in Guam and on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present in east-facing reefs in the Marianas region through at least Saturday.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. The public is advised to avoid venturing to east-facing reefs. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)

#### 5.3-magnitude quake in Yigo

At 10:26am on Nov. 24, 2020, a report of a 5.3-magnitude earthquake occurred 84 kilometers east-northeast of Yigo Village, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. (PR)

CONGRESSMAN  
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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### It's not outdoor dining that worries us, but human nature

**W**ith COVID-19 cases growing exponentially, Los Angeles County public health officials have ordered the suspension of outdoor dining at restaurants for three weeks starting Thanksgiving Day. It's the latest escalation of business restrictions stemming from this surge, and with cases hitting a new high Monday—6,124—it will likely not be the last.

The temporary shutdown seems logical in the face of the increasingly dangerous circumstances. Infections are spread by people mixing with others. Anything that authorities can do to reasonably limit the nonessential activities that bring people and their possible contagions together, they should do. The curfew imposed last week that required nonessential businesses to close from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. was a good example.

But this new order gives us pause. Not because public health officials are wrong to shut down locations where people get together without protective face coverings or because restaurants have invested thousands to build outdoor dining areas (an investment that we think will pay off for years to come in temperate Los Angeles). No, it's human nature that has us concerned.

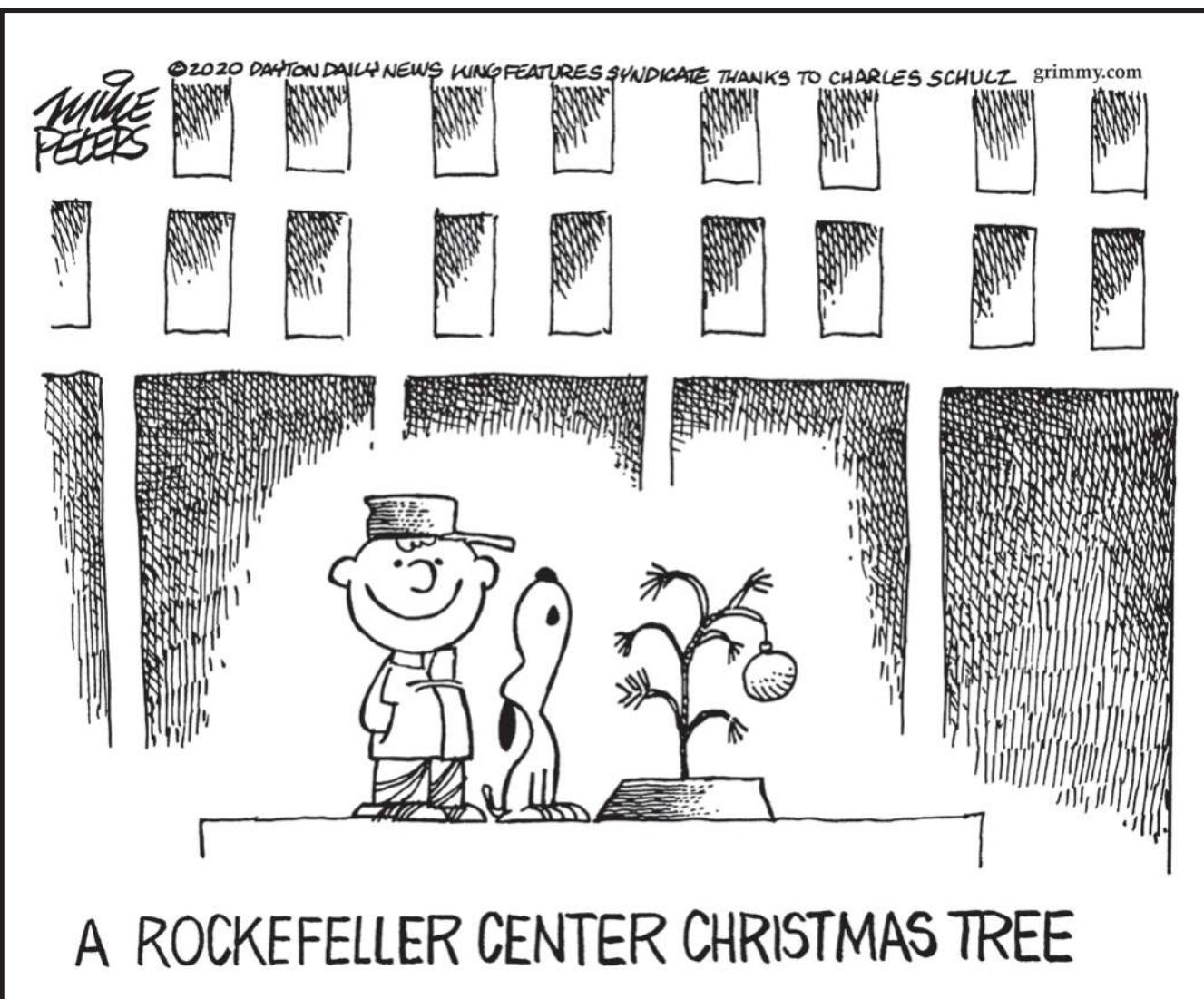
Private social gatherings have been one of the most significant sources of spread since the beginning of the pandemic. Despite the risk engendered and the endless appeals by public officials to cut it out, people keep socializing in unsafe ways. Though indoor gatherings are prohibited, it's much harder to enforce what people do behind closed doors than in full view in a public place. If shutting down outdoor dining simply moves small gatherings from a restaurant patio that is following strict infection-control measures to a dining room in a private home that is not, it could actually increase spread.

This is not an idle worry, but one based on frustrating experience. Public health officials had pinned previous COVID-19 surges to social gatherings during holiday weekends, celebrations and sports events. And that was in the warmer months. With chillier evenings, those gatherings are going to move inside.

We've consistently supported a scientific, data-driven approach to pandemic responses that identifies sources of infection spread. And the science says that infections spread much better indoors, where air doesn't circulate as well. Meanwhile, there's little data showing that outdoor dining is a major source of infection.

According to Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who is opposed to the new order, county data show that only about 15% of people who have tested positive reported dining out with someone who tested positive. Conversely, more than half of infected people have reported attending private gatherings with someone who tested positive, she said. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines put indoor dining at high risk and outdoor

*See DINING on Next Page*



### A ROCKEFELLER CENTER CHRISTMAS TREE

## Yes, there's hope in the air

**F**inally, there are glimmers of ... hope. Yes, it has been a terrible, horrible, no-good, very bad year. Many of us lost loved ones. Some of us lost good health. Some said goodbye to jobs and savings. Many lost their faith in democracy.

But still so many of us think there is so much good in so many fellow Earth dwellers that we can still smile and laugh and plan and learn and look forward to finding a path out of a dark period of despair. The pendulum has swung. Not all the way back, but it's moving.

The system worked. The man with 6 million more votes won. The Supreme Court did not decide the victor. Spurious claims of fraud and conspiracy were disproved. Damage was done; it will be repaired.

Miraculously, thanks to scientists working together around the globe and around the clock, there are three potential vaccines on the horizon. That is certainly an unprecedented accomplishment in such a short time.

Mask wearing may become a universal recognition that an unseen virus is on the prowl killing the unsuspecting, not a boast of political or cultural belief. Perhaps, even, a tardy farewell to the idea 'I am free not to wear a mask even if it kills or sickens you.'

There now will be official recognition that climate change, potentially more dangerous to the human race than the pandemic, must be a focus of worldwide attention, led, at last, by the United States. Saving the planet will be seen as a noble venture—saving lives, saving species, creating jobs.

The volatile stock market did not crash. It boomed after the election on the promise of stability and reason and experience and, well, hope.

Government should soon start functioning again, as those with experience and dedication and passion for justice and truth come out of lying low to do their jobs with vigor and, well, hope. Gone will be those who gutted the agencies they were charged with caretaking as they sought to prove their loyalty to the boss, not to the people they were supposed to help. Nepotism won't live at the White House any more.

Diplomacy will be prized as a tool to bring people together. U.S. funding for health clinics around the globe will flow again. It will take a while, but America's name may lose its connotation with greed, incompetence and callousness. America's reputation for compassion and caring and helping others may start to be restored.

Legal immigrants will be welcomed. Foreign students will be greeted with respect and honor. "Dreamers" —brought to this country as children by adults—won't automatically be deported

**By ANN MCFEATTERS**  
Tribune News Service



*Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.*

to countries where they may not even speak the language. Children won't be caged at the border or separated from their parents.

The justice system may live up to its name and won't be unleashed periodically on political enemies. Voter suppression will be seen as a criminal offense. Pardons won't be handed out for serious federal crimes as if they were mints on the Oval Office Resolute Desk.

The U.S. Department of Education might stop seeing as its mission aiding the for-profit Trump Universities of the world and gradually may be turned around to try to seek to help children and adults learn.

Racial divisions won't be stoked to white heat at the top.

The Interior Department won't be giving out as many public lands and oil and gas and mineral leases to robber barons as the fat cats have been used to getting.

Polluting the air and water may not be done with impunity.

Yes, it sounds like Utopia. In fact, a few years ago before red hats and the pandemic it was just the way things were supposed to work. There were serious problems and wars and inhumanity, but, in this country, there wasn't total despair that the best days were over.

We all have learned a lot in 2020. It remains to be seen if we can say we learned enough and if the lessons will be retained.

Because 2021 will be tough in every way. More death. Sickness. More businesses shutting down. A sagging economy. Food shortages. Evictions. Our better angels taking too many days off. Demagoguery. A struggle to regain our international credibility. Seventy-three million people who think, wrongly, they were shafted.

But there's something in the air (besides a killer virus). It's a new determination to enjoy what we have, to appreciate the little things and respect the big things. To give and donate and decorate and bake and cook and volunteer and create and sing. And hope.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Rudy Giuliani has tried to subvert the will of the voters before. He did it after 9/11

The problem with Rudy Giuliani isn't that his mascara runs or that he held a post-election event next to an adult book shop. Nor is it his behavior toward the young woman in the *Borat* movie or his pinkie ring or the fact that he told his second wife he was divorcing her by announcing it at a news conference.

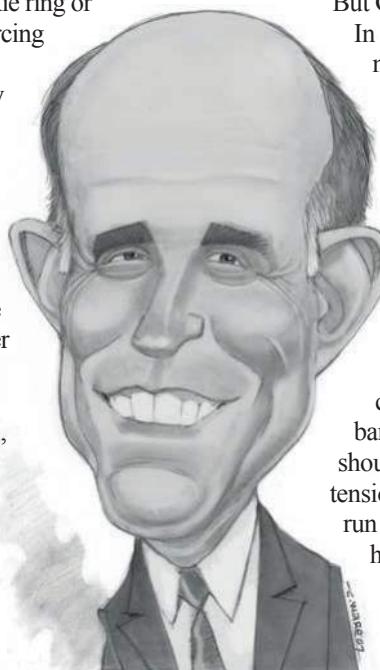
The problem with the former New York City mayor is that he doesn't respect elections.

Not only has Giuliani been President Donald Trump's chief accomplice in his outrageous and deceptive efforts to subvert the will of the American people, a role he is continuing to play even as the transition gets underway, but he also fought hard in the aftermath of 9/11 to keep himself in office after his term as mayor ran out.

Let me remind you what happened then.

Sept. 11, 2001, in New York City was a crisp, shockingly clear fall day. When the two World Trade Center towers were attacked, and then collapsed in a cloud of dust, steel and concrete, then-Mayor Giuliani rose to the occasion, emerging from an office two blocks away covered in ash but ready to defend the city. He was calm and commanding in the days that followed, supporting first responders and comforting survivors and speaking effectively for an anxious city. He revived his battered political image, reinventing himself as "America's mayor."

Sept. 11 was also primary day in New York City. A mayoral election was underway. Giuliani was termed out—it was the end of his second term and his time in City Hall was up at the end of the year. More than half a dozen candidates—including Mark Green and Michael Bloomberg, who eventually became the nominees in the general election—were fighting for their parties' support. Because of the World Trade Center attacks, that day's primary was put off for two weeks.



Delaying the primary was entirely reasonable. People weren't going to turn out to vote on a day when the city had been violently terrorized.

But Giuliani saw an opportunity for something else. In the days that followed—as he watched his poll numbers rise—Giuliani and his aides and supporters began hinting that the mayor shouldn't be required to leave office when his term was up. What the really city needed was an extraordinary three-month extension of his term to help deal with the fallout of the attack and ease the transition for the next mayor. This was a catastrophe after all. Steady leadership was needed. The November election should be canceled.

Or maybe that wasn't enough. In fact, according to Giuliani and his aides, the 1993 law barring him from serving a third consecutive term should be overturned entirely if his bid for an extension was rejected and he should be allowed to run again. Giuliani even considered trying to get himself on the ballot despite the term limits law. He lobbied the governor and the Legislature to keep him in office.

Trump-like, Giuliani insisted that supporters were "begging me to stay in the run for another term."

He got some support in the heat of the crisis, but a lot of pushback too. The New York Civil Rights Coalition accused Giuliani of bullying the mayoral candidates and being "disruptive to electoral democracy." The Democrats in the state Assembly (whose support was necessary for any extension) refused to back his proposal. Frederick A.O. Schwarz, who had served as the city's top lawyer, said Giuliani had "created the very dangerous idea that we couldn't survive without him."

Republican Gov. George Pataki wrote later that Giuliani's team "pushed the issue" with the governor's staff for weeks. Pataki finally told Giuliani he would neither support an extension nor cancel the upcoming election.

**By NICHOLAS GOLDBERG**

Los Angeles Times



*Nicholas Goldberg is an associate editor and op-ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.*

"Regardless of Rudy's motivation, regardless of his raw emotions in the situation, he abandoned some of the most basic conservative principles—to follow the law and relinquish power when your term is over, even in times of crisis," Pataki wrote later.

Sound familiar?

Another opponent of Giuliani's attempted power grab was his friend Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, who advised the mayor to back down. According to ABC News at the time, McCain cautioned Giuliani to "listen to people you trust, not people who have a stake in your decision."

When it became clear that state leaders would not authorize his continuing on as an unelected mayor, Giuliani gave in. But he appears to have learned nothing from the experience.

Even as he approved starting the transition, Trump refused to concede and may well never do so. His tactics—and Giuliani's—have undermined the integrity of a legitimate election in the eyes of Americans and deepened the fissures in an already deeply divided country.

It is precisely in times of crisis—whether a terrorist attack or a pandemic—that democracy must show its resilience. Rules, laws and norms, including elections, obviously shouldn't be tossed aside at the first signs of strain.

That's a lesson Giuliani should have learned two decades ago when the towers came down.

## Progressives may not like Biden's foreign policy

Shortly after President-elect Joe Biden clinched his party's nomination in May, a group of 50 progressive organizations sent his campaign a letter urging him to commit to a broad agenda of foreign policy reform. They wanted him to agree to such policies as reentering the Iran nuclear deal and cutting at least \$200 billion from the Pentagon budget.

Six months later, Biden has given his answer: With his choice of Antony Blinken for secretary of state and Jake Sullivan as

national security adviser, as well as his expected nomination of Michele Flournoy for secretary of defense, Biden has signaled that his national security Cabinet will be more centrist than the left flank of his party would like.

To be sure, Blinken, Sullivan and Flournoy will not give Saudi Arabia the greenlight it has come to expect from the Trump administration. Biden's appointment of John Kerry to be his climate czar shows that an issue the Trump White House did not care about will be a priority for Biden. And Biden has committed to trying to rejoin the 2015 Iran nuclear deal if Iran comes back into compliance with it.

At the same time, all three choices come out of the moderate wing of the Democratic Party. Blinken is a longtime aide to Biden going back to his tenure as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He has emphasized in the last year how a Biden administration would focus on rebuilding relationships with allies that Trump has disrupted.

He has also signaled that he is more clear-eyed on Middle East policy than his party's progressive activists. Last month, for example, Blinken told the Jewish Insider that even if the Biden administration suspends nuclear-related sanctions on Iran, "we will continue nonnuclear sanctions as a strong hedge against Iranian misbehavior in other areas." If Biden keeps that promise, then Iran would still be under considerable financial pressure because the Trump administration has ramped up sanctions on Iran for its support of terrorism.

In other areas of the world, Biden is not quite reading from the progressive playbook. That May letter to Biden urged him to reject efforts to work to unseat the regimes of adversaries and oppose the "broad based" sanctions on Iran and Venezuela. But in a talk last year at the Hudson Institute, Sullivan wasn't in complete agreement. When asked about Trump's Venezuela policy, he said a military intervention was too risky, and that it was wiser to focus on nonmilitary policy. "That means doubling down on the sanctions pieces and continuing to build the international co-

**By ELI LAKE**

Bloomberg News



*Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for the Washington Times, the New York Sun and UPI.*

alition around this and particularly focus on breaking off China, Cuba and Russia from Venezuela," Sullivan said.

Flournoy, too, is a centrist on defense policy. She has publicly opposed significant defense cuts and advocated for rebuilding the military to meet new challenges from China and Russia. This was a key point of her testimony before the House Armed Services Committee last year, when she said her primary concern was that a miscalculation by Russia or China could lead to a major confrontation with the U.S. She advocated that the U.S. "procure and deploy all of the systems necessary" to deter both countries from any misbehavior.

Compare that to the May 11 letter from progressives, which called for greater diplomatic engagement with Russia and China. "Overhyping the threat these countries pose to the United States intensifies fear, racism, and hate domestically," it said.

It's still very early days to assess what a Biden foreign policy will look like. When Barack Obama became president, no one was predicting the Arab Spring and its tragic aftermath in the war in Syria. Presidents often learn what their foreign policy is by reacting to events in the world.

Nonetheless, Biden's early signals show that, for now at least, he is charting a centrist course. And if his choices for national security positions are disappointing to his party's progressives, they are sure to be reassuring to his country's allies.

## DINING

From Page 8

dining at lower risk.

But Barbara Ferrer, Los Angeles County's public health director, defended the new orders Monday, saying that nearly 80% of food service businesses inspected have been found out of compliance with distancing guidelines. Furthermore, she said that it's "completely impossible" to know exactly how many people caught COVID-19 from eating out al fresco. "Most people that we interview, they have no idea where they may have become infected," Ferrer said. Instead public health officials rely on broad guidelines to craft policies such as the one that says activities that involve the removal of protective face coverings, such as dining, heighten risk.

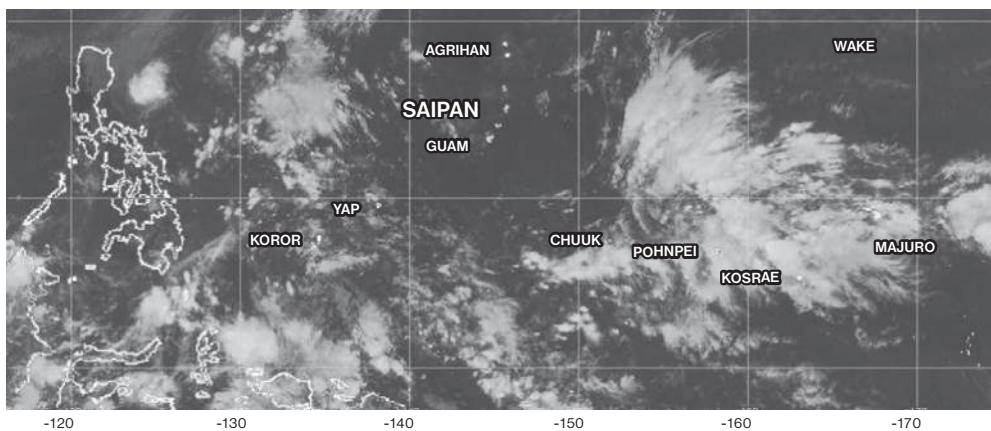
At this point, it may not be enough to rely on these guidelines to control the spread. LA County businesses have been subjected to multiple clampdowns—closing, reopening and modifying, now closing again—and yet it has not stopped COVID-19 from spreading. Something is not working, and it may well be due to what's happening behind closed doors. Let's not give the public more reason to gather there.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Locally heavy showers possible. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°
77°	87°	77°	87°	77°

### YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



### PICTURE TIME: 8:16 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show isolated showers and thunderstorms across the area with the bulk of showers passing through Rota waters. Water vapor satellite imagery and upper-level analysis show the broad upper low to the east now centered near 12N152E and moving WNW. While a dry, subsident flow is evident in the imagery, upper-level north winds of 30-40 kt above 30kft are proving sufficient enough to allow short-lived thunderstorms in the region as a few of the shallow trade-wind showers gain enough vertical depth to produce a few bolts of lightning before storm tops are quickly sheared southward.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas

to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

#### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

#### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp), follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

Source: Office of the Governor

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:37 AM	3:43 PM
Saturday	-	4:24 AM	4:19 PM
Sunday	-	5:12 AM	4:58 PM
Monday	-	6:01 AM	5:40 PM
Tuesday	-	6:53 AM	6:25 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	37° / 19°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 63°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	43° / 30°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 55°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	86° / 68°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 71°
New York	Partly Cloudy	59° / 37°
Osaka	Showers	55° / 45°
Paris	Showers	46° / 43°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	46° / 28°
Rome	Rain	54° / 36°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	71° / 52°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 48°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	36° / 18°
Tokyo	Rain	50° / 41°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	62° / 40°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:09 AM	LOW TIDE	0.20
6:23 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.38
11:45 AM	LOW TIDE	0.70
5:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.68

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 6:55am 7:35am 1, 4, 6				UA174 5:10am 5:51am 1, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183 6:55am 9:50pm 1 via Guam				UA184/174 10:40pm 5:51am+1 3, 5 via Guam			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183 8:00pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 5				UA184 10:40pm 4:30am+1 1, 3, 5			
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020			
SAIPAN TO ROTA				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri				

# Yeh-Yeh: Donald Mendiola: Healing with herbs, spirits, positivity

By LINDSAY NASH  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*The Yeh-Yeh series shares rich stories and oral traditions of Saipan. The name is inspired by Refaluwasch elder Lino Olapai's childhood memory of being told to say "yehyeh" as the elders told stories. Once it was quiet, the elders knew the children were asleep.*

In a world—and year—that can seem dark, Saipan *suruhānu* Donald Mendiola always sees the light.

Call him what you will: a traditional healer, a medicine man, an herbalist, a keeper of culture, a teacher. But if you ask him, he's always had one mission—to help others.

"I am an instrument of God," Mendiola says, sitting outside his home under a covered wraparound veranda.

It is a peaceful spot in southern Saipan where chickens crow nearby. Stalks of sugar cane grow tall behind the house. A set of picnic tables line the veranda, a place that attracts a steady stream of people who come for treatment. Plants surround the house and dot the surrounding land. Tumaga. Soursop. Pomegranate. Sugar cane. Yellow ginger. Each with its own healing power.

At 57, Mendiola is an expert in traditional medicine and spiritual healing. He is one of only a few remaining *suruhānu* on Saipan who practices the ancient Chamorro tradition of using herbs and spiritual healing to cure everything from aches and pains to broken bones to ailments attributed to the *taotaomo'na*, ancestor spirits believed to cause physical maladies. But Mendiola goes beyond the rituals to take his own approach to healing. He's not afraid to collect the plants he needs exactly when he needs them, rather than early morning hours or before sunset, like he was taught. And he bucks the tradition of keeping his medicinal recipes a secret. It is his duty, he believes, to pass forward his knowledge.

"If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime," Mendiola says, quoting the proverb.

Mendiola has always been drawn to healing, even as a very young boy. And like many traditional Chamorro healers, he was trained by a family member who sensed he has an affinity for the craft.

His grandmother was a well-known *suruhāna* and Mendiola was fascinated with her ability to pluck herbs from her garden, pound them up, and boil them into medicine

that could heal others in the community.

"I went to my grandmother and said, 'Nana, I want to learn what you know about medicine. Can you teach me?'

He began going to her house every day. He was a bright child with a photographic memory and it was easy for him to memorize each recipe. He was soon a full-fledged healer. "Even the *man'amko* would say, 'You're so young—not even 12 and you know more recipes for healing than us!'"

Mendiola laughs as he thinks about his youth. He preferred playing bingo with the elders rather than playing with kids his own age. And as more of the *man'amko* saw his talent, the more of their own medicinal recipes they would share.

"Families would come and see me and share what they knew," Mendiola said. "Most were Chamorro, but I was also learning from Palauan, Chuukese and other elders across Micronesia."

Mendiola quickly excelled past the traditional herbal healing and moved into spiritual healing, which he considers his true calling.

"I started learning on my own through meditation. I went to the cliffs, the beaches—even at night. I would sit there and talk to the spirits. Sometimes I'd go to the cemetery and talk to the spirits. I'd ask, 'Is there something I should know to help others? Can you communicate it back to me?' And something would come into my mind. Right there."

Mendiola can tell you many stories of miraculous healing, like the times he was summoned to the hospital emergency room to eradicate a demon spirit trapped in someone's body, occasions where he healed a patient with the doctor and staff standing by as witnesses.

But he is not prideful, he says. Mendiola is quick to explain that while he has been given the supernatural power to heal people, it is only through God that it can be done. "It must be done from the heart," he said. "You have to love to do it and have a commitment to doing charity."

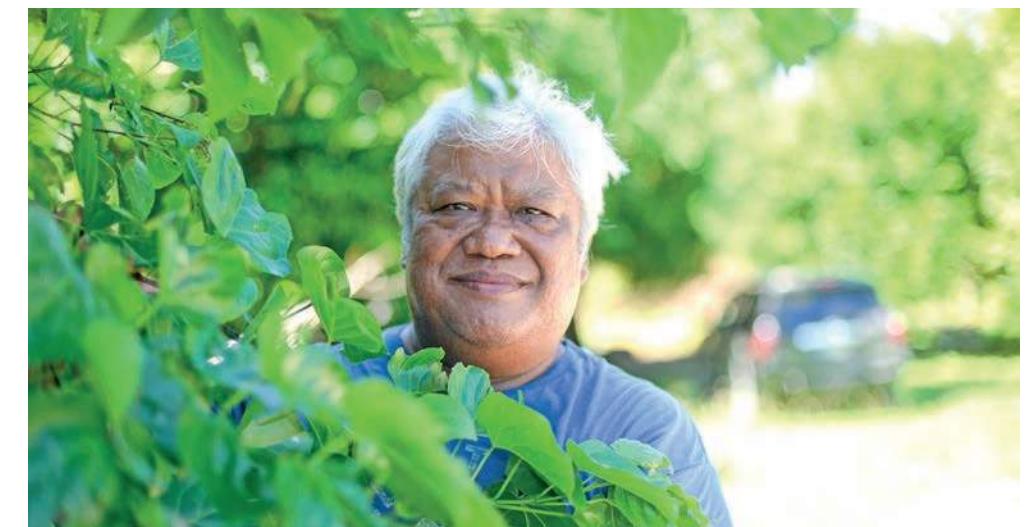
Despite the difficult year, the pandemic, and the local austerity measures that have affected him, Mendiola remains a beacon of positivity amidst the world around him.

"I believe that whatever is inside will manifest on the exterior and whatever is happening outside is a reflection of what you're carrying in your inner universe," Mendiola said.

"We need to think of others instead of ourselves," he said. "Stop thinking of me, me, me."

Change it to us, us, us. Because we are all connected."

*Lindsay Nash is a writer and photographer who lives on Saipan. She is a member of the Marianas Writers' Movement and is currently writing a novel about 20th century Saipan. Email her at lindsayin-saipan@gmail.com.*



LINDSAY NASH

Donald Mendiola is a traditional healer on Saipan who practices ancient Chamorro medicine in modern times.



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# Special Feature

**Editor's Note:** The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support from the community. Various activities have been conducted and projects have been launched to rally behind the destination enhancement campaign. This section will provide insights on how PPP supporters are committed to the program.



TOGETHER,  
WE CAN



Support for the Public Private Partnership initiative of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers keeps pouring in, with 11 more groups signing up with the destination enhancement campaign.

Marianas Racing Association, Beach Road Tourism Development, Inc., Tan Holdings/Tan Siu Lin Foundation, P&A Corp., Kanoa Football Club, Bibong Corp., Loco & Taco Dining Bar, Divewish, Tasi & the Ali'is, and International Roller Skates have agreed to adopt sites, while the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects have committed to provide consulting services for PPP's construction projects.

GCEA co-chairs Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Jerry Tan welcomed the new PPP initiative supporters during the signing ceremony for the memorandum of understanding last week at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

"Lt. Gov. [Arnold] Palacios and I are grateful for the diverse array of partners from all over the Commonwealth, ranging from the government, private sector, and non-governmental organizations who truly believe in working together to improve our island community. Diversity is



our strength here in the Marianas, and this collaboration with these strong partners will help us improve our islands' image as a world-class destination in the Pacific," Torres said.

The Marianas Motocross Park is expected to add to the growing list of must-visit sites in the CNMI once the facility is up and running at the old CowTown Raceway. MRA, which is reviving motocross after a hiatus of more than 10 years, has started the clearing work at the old CowTown Raceway to get ready for the construction of the Marianas Motocross Park and eventually host local and international races.

"Marketing the CNMI as a world-class



destination is the mindset that is very much alive. The Public Private Partnership is yet another component toward

achieving this objective. We have what the tourists want so let us just keep up the many sites on our islands to a level that is both acceptable to us and more so to a standard that is satisfactory to our visitors," said MRA president Steve Sablan.

The Grotto is another key destination in the Commonwealth and Bibong Corp., Loco & Taco Dining Bar, Divewish, Tasi & the Ali'is, and International Roller Skates are teaming up to take care of one of the most visited sites on the islands.

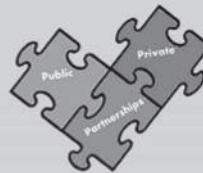
Meanwhile, the Oleai Sports Complex, the main hub for sports, health, and wellness activities in the CNMI, has been adopted by the TSL Foundation. Improvement projects at the facility are ongoing and a must, as the Commonwealth prepares for the hosting of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

The Kanoa Football Club is the fourth sports organization to step up and join the PPP initiative, as it will work with Beach Road Tourism Development, Inc. for the upkeep of the highway medians in Garapan.

Up north, P&A Corp. has decided to take charge in the maintenance of the Korean Peace Memorial, one of the many sites on island that commemorate World War II history.

With the 11 more organizations throwing their support to the destination initiative, the campaign now has 32 partners adopting 21 sites. (PR)

# 11 more groups back destination enhancement initiative



ADOPTING GROUPS	ADOPTED SITES
Marianas Racing Association	CowTown
International Roller Skates	
Tasi & the Ali'is	
Divewish	Grotto
Loco & Taco Dining Bar	
Bibong Corp. (Marianas Lighthouse)	
P & A Corporation	Korean Peace Memorial
Tan Siu Lin Foundation/TanHoldings	Oleai Sports Complex
Kanoa Football Club	
Beach Road Tourism Development, Inc.	Garapan Core Highway Medians



# Support UOG students through AmazonSmile purchases

Amazon shoppers can now help grow scholarship and program funds to benefit University of Guam students at no additional cost. By shopping through AmazonSmile—a nonprofit foundation created

by Amazon and a separate site from Amazon.com—users can select University of Guam Endowment Foundation as their beneficiary, and AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of that user's eligible purchases to the foundation.

Shoppers can go directly to the UOG Endowment Foundation's page on the AmazonSmile website at <https://give.ug.edu/amazonsmile> and start shopping. Not all prod-

ucts for sale on Amazon.com are eligible under AmazonSmile, but the prices are the same on both sites. The AmazonSmile dropdown menu in the navigation bar displays a running tab of how much of a user's purchase amounts have been donated to the foundation.

“Tis the season for giving, and what better way to give than to support a scholarship while buying presents for the family?” said Katrina Perez, executive director of the UOG Endowment Foundation. “This is a fun and effortless way for people near and far to support the academic aspirations of our local students.”

The UOG Endowment Foundation's partnership with AmazonSmile coincided with the Nov. 5 launch of the foundation's year-end “G is for Giving” campaign, which seeks to raise funds for student scholarships and UOG programs that help make the university an affordable option for students in Guam and Micronesia. Donations may be made to any UOG school or college or to a variety of programs and scholarships until Dec. 31 at <https://give.ug.edu>.

AmazonSmile is also available on the Amazon Shopping mobile app for iOS and Android devices. Simply find “AmazonSmile” in the Settings menu and choose “University of Guam Endowment Foundation.”

For more information, visit <https://give.ug.edu>. (PR)



Perez



## ETC DONATION

Mount Carmel School thanks Triple J Enterprises for their recent Education Tax Credit donation of \$1,000. This donation will be allocated to support academic programs and services and COVID-19 mitigation supplies and resources. For more information about Mount Carmel School, visit [www.mountcarmelsaipan.com](http://www.mountcarmelsaipan.com).

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**amazon smile**

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# Saipan Snaps adds Coffee Craze flavor

The CNMI's favorite ginger snap cookies has added a new flavor in their roster of delicious cookies. Aside from the popular Original Saipan Snaps and Sweet Heat, Coffee Craze is here to amaze.

Launched early this month, Coffee Craze is catching up in becoming a Saipan Snap favorite as well.

Saipan Snaps owner Jill Arenovski said that Coffee Craze is a product of

research and help from the community. "To choose this third flavor, we tested extensively with various ingredients to see what flavors best complement our ginger snap cookie. We've also asked our

customers both online and in person what they would like to see us create."

"We launched Coffee Craze on Nov. 2, as soon as the packaging was finalized. We've loved the idea of a Coffee Snap but it was a very long time in the testing phase. Coffee can have a very bitter taste so many tests were tried and rejected. We're happy to finally have a Coffee Snap that has a beautifully strong coffee flavor without the bitterness," she added.

Arenovski said that the market's response has been amazing. "Many customers have declared it their new favorite while others find themselves in the quandary of buying multi-

ple flavors to satisfy their craving. This makes us very happy! We're thrilled that even without the tourist market, we've able to keep our business going during the pandemic.

"So many islanders tell us that they buy and send our cookies to relatives in the United States and that makes us proud that we are one of the great things Saipan has to offer. Our website is easy to use and offers bundles that can be sent anywhere in the U.S. Saipan Snaps are available at DJ's Corner at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Shell stations (Susupe, DanDan, Highway Express, Puerto Rico, and San Roque), and Payless Superfresh," she added.

In Guam, Saipan Snaps can be purchased at Shell Foody locations and Coffee Craze flavor will soon be available. "For the next few weeks, we're also offering Christmas bundles by special order only. This season the packages include all three flavors of Saipan Snaps as well as other traditional holiday cookies such as Chocolate Crinkles, Spritz, Gingerbread, and more," Arenovski said.

"As always, the bags and boxes are beautifully decorated for holiday gift-giving," she added.

For more information, (670) 287-9395 or email: saipansnaps@gmail.com. (Bea Cabrera)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

**CUC-IFB-21-001**

#### ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE- 2 PROJECT REPLACEMENT OF FLOW METER AND PRESSURE RELEASE VALVE (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general removal and installation of gate valve assembly, PRV, flow meter, strainer, pressure gauge and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Simapalo, Rota.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-21-001, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project Replacement of Flow Meter and Pressure Release Valve", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 7, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Edgar Tuazon, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Technician Senior via email - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

### INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD21-ITB-008

**SUBMISSION DATE: December 29, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

#### "Groundwater, Leachate and Gas Testing at the Marpi Solid Waste Facility, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR TRANSFER STATION OFFICE LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIACT SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 15, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division, 2nd Floor Transfer Station Office Lower Base, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 22, 2020** to Ms. Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA  
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

### INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD21-RFP-009

**SUBMISSION DATE: December 29, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

#### "Scope of Services for Cost and Creation and Implementation of a Household Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HHWMP) Collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR TRANSFER STATION OFFICE LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIACT SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 15, 2020**, 10:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division, 2nd Floor Transfer Station Office Lower Base, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 22, 2020** to Ms. Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

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/S/ JAMES A. ADA  
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

### INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-010

**SUBMISSION DATE: December 29, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

#### "Route 315 (Quartermaster Road) & Route 33 (Beach Road) Intersection Improvements and Installation of Traffic Signal System, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIACT SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The project package will be available on or after **November 27, 2020** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 15, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 23, 2020** to Ms. Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA  
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

IN GUAM, SAIPAN SNAPS CAN BE PURCHASED AT SHELL FOODY LOCATIONS AND COFFEE CRAZE FLAVOR WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE. "FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, WE'RE ALSO OFFERING CHRISTMAS BUNDLES BY SPECIAL ORDER ONLY. THIS SEASON THE PACKAGES INCLUDE ALL THREE FLAVORS OF SAIPAN SNAPS AS WELL AS OTHER TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY COOKIES SUCH AS CHOCOLATE CRINKLES, SPRITZ, GINGERBREAD, AND MORE," ARENOVSKI SAID.

"AS ALWAYS, THE BAGS AND BOXES ARE BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED FOR HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING," SHE ADDED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, (670) 287-9395 OR EMAIL: saipansnaps@gmail.com. (Bea Cabrera)

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESO, F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Administrator

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In re Estate of GEORGE A. ) CIVIL ACTION  
MANGLONA, ) NO. 97-1061  
Deceased. )

**EIGHTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 11, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of George A. Manglona in and to the following property:

**Legal description of the property:**  
(1) Lot 001 T 22, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands; and  
(2) Lot 008 T 85, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands.

**Total area of the property:**  
(1) Lot 001 T 22 contains an area of 1,488 square meters, more or less.  
(2) Lot 008 T 85 contains an area of 901 square meters.

**Known encumbrances:**  
(1) Lot 001 T 22 is subject to outstanding mortgages, the balances due on which are negotiable.  
(2) Lot 008 T 85 is a leasehold estate, which expires on July 21, 2047. No further rent is due.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.**  
The sale will be held on Friday, December 4, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.**  
The terms and conditions of sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 4th day of November, 2020:

/s/  
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

# Nation

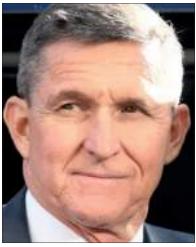
## Trump pardons Flynn despite guilty plea in Russia probe

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump pardoned his former national security adviser Michael Flynn on Wednesday, ending a yearslong prosecution in the Russia investigation that saw Flynn twice plead guilty to lying to the FBI and then reverse himself before the Justice Department stepped in to dismiss his case.

"It is my Great Honor to announce that General Michael T. Flynn has been granted a Full Pardon," Trump tweeted. "Congratulations to @GenFlynn and his wonderful family, I know you will now have a truly fantastic Thanksgiving!"

The pardon, coming in the waning weeks of Trump's single term, is part of a broader effort by the president to undo the results of a Russia investigation that shadowed his administration and yielded criminal charges against a half dozen associates. It comes just months after the president commuted the sentence of another associate, Roger Stone, days before he was to report to prison.

A Justice Department official said the department was not consulted on the pardon and learned Wednesday of the



Flynn

plan. But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, noted that the president has the legal power to pardon Flynn.

The move is likely to energize supporters who have taken up Flynn as a cause celebre and rallied around the retired Army lieutenant general as the victim of what they assert is an unfair prosecution, even though Flynn twice admitted guilt. Trump has repeatedly spoken warmly about Flynn and, in an indication of his personal interest in his fate, asked then-FBI Director James Comey in February 2017 to end a criminal investigation into the national security adviser.

In a statement, Flynn's family thanked Trump "for answering our prayers and the prayers of a nation" by issuing the pardon.

Democrats lambasted the pardon as undeserved and unprincipled. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called it "an act of grave corruption and a brazen abuse of power," while Rep. Adam Schiff, the Demo-

cratic chair of the House Intelligence Committee, said a "pardon by Trump does not erase" the truth of Flynn's guilty plea, "no matter how Trump and his allies try to suggest otherwise."

"The President's enablers have constructed an elaborate narrative in which Trump and Flynn are victims and the Constitution is subject to the whims of the president," House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerry Nadler said in a statement. "Americans soundly rejected this nonsense when they voted out President Trump."

The pardon is the final step in a case defined by twists and turns. The most dramatic came in May when the Justice Department abruptly moved to dismiss the case, insisting that Flynn should not have been interviewed by the FBI in the first place, only to have U.S. District Justice Emmet Sullivan resist the request and appoint a former judge to argue against the federal government's position and to evaluate whether Flynn should be held in criminal contempt for perjury.



CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



CDA Commonwealth Development Authority

## USDA Farm Service Agency Record Keeping, Crop Insurance & Farm Loan Programs

One common trait that all successful farm operations share is the ability to maintain accurate and up-to-date financial and production records. Financial and production records are also required to qualify for various benefits including FSA loans and crop insurance program.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is here to give you some ideas on:

- How to keep basic financial records;
- How to keep farm production records;
- What kind of financial and production records are required to qualify for their programs; and,
- Managing risks when disaster strikes.

Getting the needed funds to purchase farm equipment and supplies can be hard for startup and existing farming business. Understanding the key factors that affect loan decisions and knowing the application process might ease the pain of the loan application process.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is here to give you some ideas on:

- Whether or not you are eligible;
- What are the allowable loan purposes; and
- What they will look at when they receive an application.



For more information, contact the CNMI Department of Commerce at (670) 664-3018 or visit us at <https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4687>

Disclaimer: The CNMI Small Business Development Center (CNMI SBDC) is a member of the University of Guam Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center (PISBDCN). PISBDCN is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact CNMI SBDC Lorrie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950. Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email [cnnisbdc@pacificsbdc.com](mailto:cnnisbdc@pacificsbdc.com). Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

**FREE TRAINING!**

**Tuesday,  
December 1, 2020  
8:00am- 10:00am**

**ZOOM WEBINAR**

**Presented by  
Doreen Rivera**



**Presented by  
Tristan Paulino**



## 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CLUB 200 Wild About the Red Cross



**American Red Cross**  
Northern Mariana Islands

**TICKETS: \$50.00**  
Virtual event will live stream on  
Saturday, December 19, 2020  
Buy your tickets today at [www.redcross.org/club200](http://www.redcross.org/club200)

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



# World

## Germany extends partial shutdown to curb virus spread

**BERLIN** (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the country's 16 state governors on Wednesday agreed to extend a partial shutdown well into December in an effort to further reduce the rate of COVID-19 infections ahead of the Christmas period.

Germany embarked on a so-called “wave-breaker” shutdown on Nov. 2, closing restaurants, bars, sports and leisure facilities but leaving schools, shops and hair salons open. It was initially slated to last four weeks.

Merkel said the measures will now be extended until at least Dec. 20, with a goal of pushing the number of new coronavirus cases in each region below 50 per 100,000 inhabitants per week.

“We have to continue to pursue this goal,” she told reporters in Berlin.

Merkel said that while existing measures have succeeded in halting an surge in new coronavirus infections, they have stabilized at a high level.

Germany's disease control agency, the Robert Koch Insti-

tute, reported 18,633 new cases over the past 24 hours—compared with 17,561 a week earlier.

“We can't be satisfied with this partial success,” she said, noting that health officials on Wednesday also reported 410 deaths linked to COVID-19, the highest single-day total yet.

“(This) reminds us in the saddest way that behind the statistics are human fates,” Merkel said.

During a seven-hour video call, federal and state officials also agreed on a number of new restrictions.

These include:

- Limiting private gatherings to five people from up to two households, not counting children under 14. Over the festive period that number will be increased to 10, to allow for small family gatherings.
- Traditional New Year's Eve fireworks will be discouraged, and banned entirely in some popular streets and squares.

- Employers will be encouraged to let staff work from home Dec. 23 to Jan. 1.
- Masks will be required in front of stores, in parking lots

and in most secondary schools.

- The number of customers allowed into larger stores will be reduced.

The government also plans around 17 billion euros (\$20 billion) more in aid to compensate businesses hit by the shutdown, on top of 15 billion euros provided by federal authorities in November.

Germany, which has 83 million people, was credited with a relatively good performance in the first phase of the pandemic. It still has a lower death rate than several other European countries, and its current shutdown has been relatively mild.

Germany has reported a total of 961,320 virus cases since the pandemic began, including 14,771 deaths.

Merkel expressed hope that the arrival of the first vaccines in coming weeks would help turn the corner on the pandemic.

“A lot indicates that 2021 will bring us relief,” she said.

The country's disease control agency released a new version of its contact tracing app Wednesday that includes

reminders for people to share positive test results with people they were in close proximity to.

The app had been downloaded 22.8 million times by Friday. Its decentralized, pri-

vacy-focused design has been copied by several other European countries.

## Japan, China agree on economic ties, split over islands

**TOKYO** (AP)—China's top diplomat told Japan's leader on Wednesday that Beijing wants the two Asian powers to have good relations and cooperate in fighting the coronavirus and reviving their pandemic-hit economies, but the two sides remained at odds over an island dispute.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi delivered a message from Chinese President Xi Jinping expressing his hope of developing positive relations with Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and “strengthen cooperation with Japan in pandemic measures and for the economic recovery,” Wang told reporters after meeting with Suga.

Wang told Suga that ties between the two countries have improved through high-level dialogue and mutual efforts and that China wants to cooperate further in a range of areas.

“A stable relationship be-

tween the two countries is important not only for Japan and China but also for the region and the international community, and I would like to fulfill our responsibilities together,” Suga said during his talks with Wang.

Wang's visit came as Japan is actively promoting military and economic partnerships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China's rise, which Japan considers a security threat. Beijing has criticized the move as an attempt to create an “Asian NATO.”

Often-thorny relations between the two countries have improved in recent years as China's trade dispute with the U.S. has escalated, but territorial disputes continue to strain ties.

Suga reminded Wang of Japan's claim over Japanese-controlled East China Sea islands and raised concern about China's growing activity in the area. Chinese coast guard ships have stepped up activity around the islands despite protests and warnings by Japan.

Japan says the islands belong to it historically and under international law and that China started claiming them only after undersea oil reserves were found in the area in the 1970s.

Earlier Wednesday, Japan

protested the increased Chinese activity and what it called infiltration around the islands.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato said the government protested after Chinese ships entered Japan's contiguous zone, just outside its territorial waters, for the 306th time this year, including 20 cases of territorial violations.

“The situation is extremely serious,” Kato told reporters after meeting with Wang.

The Chinese ships entered the zone only a day after both sides agreed to avoid provocative actions in the contested area, he said.

On Tuesday, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Wang agreed to try not to escalate tensions over the islands.

Wang was firm about China's right to defend its sovereignty, and accused Japanese authorities of sending “fake” fishing boats into the area to interfere with the Chinese side. Japan has said Chinese ships threatened the safety of the Japanese fishing boats.

“We hope that both sides can calmly deal with it so that it will not affect the current hard-won improvement of Sino-Japanese relations and the future development of bilateral relations,” Wang said.

**IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE**

**†Matilde Iglesias Sablan Diaz**

Born to Life on March 14, 1947   Born to Eternal Life on December 9, 2019

We, the family of the late Matilde Sablan Diaz would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year anniversary of her call to eternal life.

Daily mass will be celebrated every 6:00PM at San Jose Church beginning December 1 through December 9, 2020.

On the final day, rosary will be said at 5:30PM and follow by Eucharistic Mass at 6:00PM. Please join us as we remember her in our prayers.

Un Dangkulo  
Na Si Yu's Ma'ase.

Norbert, Edwin, Jennie  
Adriana and Family.

**1 ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

**†Isabel Villagomez Camacho**

We the family of the late †Isabel V. Camacho would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the 1st death Anniversary of our beloved's passing into eternal life.

The following mass will be offered at San Jose church at 6:00pm from November 19 to November 27, 2020. On November 22, 2020 mass will be offered at 7:00am and on Thanksgiving, November 26, 2020 mass will be offered at 8:00am.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated

Thank you  
Francisco A. Camacho and family

# Off The Wall

## Mysterious shiny monolith found in otherworldly Utah desert

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)**—Deep in the Mars-like landscape of Utah's red-rock desert lies a mystery: A gleaming metal monolith in one of the most remote parts of the state.

The smooth, tall structure was found during a helicopter survey of bighorn sheep in southeastern Utah, officials said Monday.

A crew from the Utah Department of Public Safety and Division of Wildlife Resources spotted the gleaming object from the air Nov. 18 and landed to check it out during a break from their work.

They found the three-sided stainless-steel object is about as tall as two men put together. But they discovered no clues about who might have driven it into the ground among the undulating red rocks or why.

"This thing is not from another world," said Lt. Nick Street of the Utah Highway Patrol, part of the Department of Public Safety.

Still, it's clear that it took some planning and work to construct the 10- to 12-foot (3- to 4-meter) monolith and embed it in the rock.

The exact location is so remote that officials are not revealing it publicly, worried that people might get lost or stranded trying to find it and need to be rescued.

The monolith evokes the one that appears in the Stan-



This Nov. 18, 2020 photo provided by the Utah Department of Public Safety shows a metal monolith installed in the ground in a remote area of red rock in Utah. **AP**

ley Kubrick movie "2001: A Space Odyssey." Because it's on federal public land, it's illegal to place art objects without authorization.

Bureau of Land Management officials are investigating how long it's been there, who might have created it and whether to remove it.

## Rocky the Christmas tree stowaway owl returns to the wild

**SAUGERTIES, N.Y. (AP)**—Rocky the stowaway owl is back in the wild.

The tiny Saw-whet owl was named Rockefeller after it was found by a worker setting up the holiday tree Nov. 16 at Manhattan's Rockefeller Center. The owl was apparently trapped in the 75-foot-tall (23-meter-tall) Norway spruce when it was cut down 170 miles (275 kilometers) north, in upstate New York on Nov. 12.

The female owl, initially thought to be male, was uninjured but hadn't eaten for at least three days when she was discovered and sent to Ravensbeard Wildlife Center in the Hudson Valley town of Saugerties. There, a rehabilitator nursed her back to health for a week with plenty of mice before Rocky was cleared to continue her migratory journey south.

On Tuesday evening, rehabilitator Ellen Kalish held the



In this photo provided by the Ravensbeard Wildlife Center, Ravensbeard Wildlife Center Director and founder Ellen Kalish holds a Saw-whet owl at their facility in Saugerties, N.Y., Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020.

**AP**

"She is a tough little bird and we're happy to see her back in her natural habitat," the center wrote on Facebook. "We are sure that Rocky will feel your love and support through her journey south."

# Life & Style

## Meghan reveals she had miscarriage

**LONDON** (AP)—The Duchess of Sussex has revealed that she had a miscarriage in July, giving a personal account of the traumatic experience in hope of helping others.

Meghan described the miscarriage in an opinion piece

in The New York Times on Wednesday, writing that "I knew, as I clutched my first-born child, that I was losing my second."

The former Meghan Markle and husband Prince Harry have an 18-month-old son, Archie.

The duchess, 39, said she was sharing her story to help break the silence around an all-too-common tragedy. Britain's National Health Service says about one in eight pregnancies in which a woman is aware she is pregnant ends in miscarriage.

## BTS band members, fans welcome its first Grammy nomination

**SEOUL** (AP)—K-pop band BTS has earned its first Grammy nomination, a long-awaited feat for the South Korean act that has been reshaping the global pop landscape with record-breaking songs and well-mobilized fans.

Critics say the boy band's

nomination Tuesday demonstrates its growing presence and impact in the mainstream U.S. pop industry.

"K-pop, represented by BTS, has cracked the mainstream of mainstream, the Grammys," said Kim Young-dae, a Seoul-based music critic and author of the book

"BTS: The Review." He called the nomination "historic" and said the band "has carved out its own space and squeezed itself in."

The pandemic may have unexpectedly contributed to the long-awaited recognition from the Recording Academy.

## Gift of Christmas cookies is more curse than blessing

**DEAR ABBY:** Every year for the last 15 years or so, my husband's sister has sent us a huge box of homemade cookies for Christmas. My husband is from a large family, and she does this for each family. I know it involves a great deal of time and effort on her part, and she sends them via priority mail, which means an additional expense.

The problem is, we don't eat cookies. Weight is a concern for both of us, and I avoid sugar or sugar products as I don't believe they are healthy. Before we retired, we took the cookies to work to get rid of them or they were thrown out.

Many years ago, I asked my mother-in-law what to do so as to not cause hard feelings. She advised, "Don't say anything; she needs something to keep her busy." I then asked a brother-in-law how he handled the unwanted cookies. He said, "Throw them away or give them away, but DON'T TELL HER."

My SIL suffers from mild depression, and everyone tiptoes lightly around the issue to avoid upsetting her. I feel bad that she has spent time and money on these unwanted cookies all these years.

No one on that side of the family has ever said anything, and perhaps, many of them enjoy the cookies. Evidently even a carefully worded "thank you, but we can't consume them" note would cause family problems. I tried not sending an acknowledgment; the cookies kept coming. What's your suggestion?

**SWEET PROBLEM IN**

### DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

### CONNECTICUT

**DEAR SWEET PROBLEM:** I suggest you keep things the way they are. Your sister-in-law needs something to occupy her mind and give her a sense of purpose during a time of year when people can become depressed. Get creative. Those cookies might be appreciated by a church group, a residence for seniors or even holiday gifts for your neighbors if you repackage them.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My 22-year-old daughter asked if her 23-year-old best friend could stay with us for six months. Her friend's parents had to return to Europe to finish wrapping up some things and then would return for their citizenship appointments, so we agreed to the arrangement. Rent-free, because we are nice.

My daughter got a school offer in Houston and moved there in May. Now it's just her best friend and us at the house. Well, COVID-19 happened, and the parents are banned from entering the U.S. They have asked us if she can stay until the ban is lifted, which who knows when this will

happen. We agreed, but now it's November.

I miss my personal space, and I need her to move out. I feel she has overstayed. But I don't know how to approach her or her family and say this arrangement will end soon. How should I handle this?

**CROWDED IN THE SOUTH**

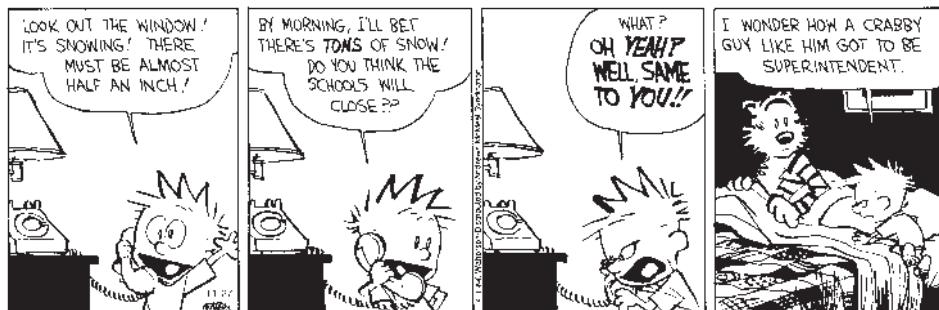
**DEAR CROWDED:** You have been more than generous to your daughter's best friend, and I hope your generosity has been appreciated not only by her but also her parents. She is an adult, and she needs to be told the arrangement she had with you is coming to an end. Set a date for her to leave and notify her parents that they may need to make other living arrangements for her if she can't do it herself.

■ ■ ■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®



GULP!



By Jim Davis

## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	Tycoon	2	Latin	101	23	Say it's	so
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Yesterday's answer 11-27

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alison Pill, 35; Jaleel White, 44; Fisher Stevens, 57; Kathryn Bigelow, 69.

**Happy Birthday:** Pay attention to detail, and be prepared to make adjustments as you move forward this year. How you build your future will determine your success. You'll have plenty of chances to gain ground if you are receptive to trying something new without discarding something you still need. Balance and integrity will play roles in your progress this year. Your numbers are 7, 18, 20, 23, 26, 38, 43.

**TAURUS (March 21-April 19):** Look at your finances, and sort out what it's going to cost to get what you want. An investment will change the way you live. Don't give in to uncertainty. Research and a solid partnership will pay off. **★★★**

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Dive into something that excites you, and the outcome will be rejuvenating. Take a look at how you can manipulate a situation to improve your position, status or reputation. A meaningful relationship can help you get what you want. **★★★**

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Evaluate your relationships, and consider who is right for you. Information you receive will push you to update personal documents and to prepare for upcoming changes you need to make. Physical activities will help alleviate stress. **★★★**

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Promote what you intend to do, and stand by your word. The moves you make will improve your life and encourage better relationships with

people who share your objectives. A romantic gesture will bring you closer to your love. **★★★★**

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't feel you have to change how you do things because someone else does; be yourself and do what feels right. Personal improvements will make you feel and look good. Don't let anyone confuse or mislead you. Focus on personal gain. **★★**

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** The information you pick up will verify something that you expected all along. Put the changes you want to make in motion, and start a dialogue with someone you love to collaborate with or be around. Romance is favored. **★★★★★**

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Finish what you start. If you leave something undone, you'll have to answer for any delays. Don't put pressure on others or bend to someone's whims. Make plans to do what is healthy and best for you. Learn from your mistakes. **★★**

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You'll have plenty on your mind. Don't confuse issues by trying to do everything at once. Structure your day to help you achieve things. Verify the information you receive before you pass it along. Plan something special for you and someone you love. **★★**

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Stick to home, and make yourself comfortable. Move things around to give yourself the space you need to pursue a project you want to start. Keep your whereabouts, intentions and personal information secret. Be more observant and less demonstrative. **★★**

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Take an interest in home, family and building a better life for you and those you love. An open dialogue will give you a better understanding of what others want and how best to maintain balance in meaningful relationships. Romance is featured. **★★★★★**

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Structure your time carefully. Look for ways to use your attributes to help you get ahead. Your efforts will not go unnoticed. Don't let a change someone makes at the last minute upset you. Go with the flow, and you'll gain ground. **★★**

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** A positive change to how you earn your keep will develop. How you express yourself will make an impression on someone who can help you. A unique idea or plan will encourage you to update your skills. Romance is favored. **★★★★**

**Birthday Baby:** You are goal-oriented, quick-witted and persuasive. You are secretive and unpredictable.

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## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGYCOURTESY 2007  
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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID  
QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

### A TASTY FRUIT SALAD

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# World pays tribute to legendary Maradona



AP  
Soccer legend Diego Maradona, seen here in one of his World Cup games playing for Argentina, died from a heart attack on Wednesday at his home in Buenos Aires.

**ARGENTINA (AP)**—A The most heated wrangling over the title of soccer's greatest player could be found between Diego Maradona and Pelé themselves.

So often, their squabbling would descend into acrimonious barbs and taunts launched between the finest to play the game.

It was a feud in which FIFA did not want to take sides when it came to naming the top player of the 20th century. Pelé was the pick of experts. Maradona was the people's choice as the winner of an online vote. So they shared the award and continued to bicker in public.

"He thinks it's him," Pelé once said. "But we all really know who was the best."

Being born 20 years apart meant the duo never settled their rivalry on the pitch.

Interviewed once by Pelé, Maradona playfully asked the Brazilian three-time World Cup winner how he accumulated an apparent goal total of 1,281.

"Who did you score them against?" Maradona asked. "Your nephews in the backyard?"

But behind the enmity, there was a mutual admiration that was evident through the grief as Pelé paid tribute to Maradona, who died Wednesday at the age of 60.

"I have lost a dear friend, and the world has lost a legend," the 80-year-old Pelé

said. "One day, I hope, we will play football together in the sky."

The sadness across Argentina was articulated by one of the few players who comes close to matching Maradona's artistry with the ball.

"He leaves us," Argentine forward Lionel Messi said, "but he is not gone because Diego is eternal."

The 33-year-old Messi still strives to emulate his hero by winning a World Cup with Argentina, a triumph that could settle the 21st century's version of the Maradona-Pelé debate as he duels with Cristiano Ronaldo for soccer greatness.

Ronaldo, who has won five FIFA player of the year awards to Messi's six, remembered Maradona as an "eternal genius."

"One of the best ever," the Portugal and Juventus forward said. "An unrivaled magician. He departs too soon but leaves a legacy with no limits and an emptiness that will never be filled."

Maradona was undoubtedly a flawed genius, who reveled in the darker side of his character. Beyond the bans for drugs—including being sent home from the 1994 World Cup—there was a sense of pride at outwitting the referee by punching the ball into the net as Argentina beat England before going on to win the 1986 FIFA tournament.

He also mesmerized with

his feet minutes later in the quarterfinal, picking up the ball around the halfway line before using dribbles and feints to breeze past Englishmen to score one of the greatest ever individuals goals.

But it was the moment of infamy, four years after Britain reclaimed the Falkland Islands following a 1982 invasion by Argentina, that was recalled by former England striker Gary Lineker.

"By some distance the best player of my generation and arguably the greatest of all time," said Lineker, the top scorer at the 1986 World Cup who followed Maradona in joining Barcelona. "After a blessed but troubled life, hopefully he'll finally find some comfort in the hands of God."

As Argentines gathered in the streets, weeping and singing, three days of national mourning were declared by the nation's president.

"There's not a single Argentinian that doesn't have a tear dropping for what this kid has done for this country," said Oscar Ruggeri, who played at three World Cups with Maradona.

Maradona was last seen attending a match on Oct. 30—his 60th birthday—at Gimnasia La Plata, the Buenos Aires team he coached until last year. The following week he required emergency surgery for bleeding on the brain.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said that the pope had

been praying for Maradona in recent days and now "thinks back fondly to the times they met in these years."

In the southern Italian city of Naples, thousands poured into the streets to honor the player who inspired Napoli to its only Serie A titles in 1987 and 1990, even though gatherings are banned due to the coronavirus pandemic. Candles were lit near huge murals of the superstar that cover the sides of buildings.

The mayor proposed that the city's San Paolo Stadium be renamed for Maradona—and ordered the stadium's lights be turned on all night.

Across Europe, the eight Champions League games were preceded by a minute's silence.

"He made world football

better," Pep Guardiola, a former Barcelona player and coach, said after leading Manchester City to victory at Olympiakos. "I was little boy with my dad and sometimes coming to Barcelona to see Maradona play and that was incredible."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino, 50, said Maradona helped him fall in love with the game.

"Diego may be eternal now, but for forever, Diego will also have a most prominent place in the incredible story of all football fairytales," Infantino said.

Maradona's death resonated beyond soccer.

"It was one of the thrills of my life when I got to meet him," Los Angeles Lakers great Magic Johnson wrote on

Instagram, alongside a photo of him hugging Maradona.

Mike Tyson recalled becoming heavyweight boxing champion in 1986 months after Maradona also became a world champion.

"They use to compare the two of us," Tyson tweeted. "He was one of my heroes and a friend."

It was Maradona's humble upbringing remembered by George Weah, the 1995 world player of the year who is now president of Liberia.

"His extraordinary story as a kid who unshackled himself from the yoke of poverty and used his mastery of football to bring joy, inspired millions," said Weah, a title winner with AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain.

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# Mahomes faces struggling Brady, Bucs



**FLORIDA**  
(AP)—Andy Reid knows quarterbacks. So does Jon Gruden. And Sean Payton.

For years, these elite NFL coaches have praised the performances of Tom Brady, Mr. Six Rings. And they do the same now with Patrick Mahomes, the NFL's biggest playmaker.

On Sunday, in a matchup that fits prime time but wasn't one CBS was about to let get away from its afternoon line-up, Mahomes and the Chiefs visit Brady and Tampa Bay.

They come into the showdown on different paths. Mahomes was heroic — again — in bringing Kansas City (9-1) back at Las Vegas, avenging its only defeat this season.

Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians, who also knows a few things about quarterbacks, has called Mahomes' college workout at Texas Tech "amazing." A good word for Mahomes in the pros, too.

"The day I worked out with Patrick, I think the wind was blowing about 35-40 miles per hour and it didn't affect his ball at all," he says. "It was amazing down in Lubbock that day."

Arians, whose Bucs (7-4) have a bye next week (at last), saw his team and Brady struggle in a loss to the Rams on Monday night.

"We've got to get ready to play a great football team coming up," Brady said. "Nothing has been great to this point. We've had some good wins, had some tough losses. Everything is about one week here in the NFL. We're going to have to go play really, really well against a great football team next week."

Meanwhile, Mahomes leads all players in early Pro Bowl voting, the NFL announced Wednesday.

Mahomes, who twice has earned Pro Bowl honors, has



It will be Patrick Mahomes, right, against Tom Brady this Sunday as the Kansas City Chiefs visit the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

AP

143,355 votes.

Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson (139,839 votes) ranks second overall, while Minnesota running back Dalvin Cook (131,875 votes), Kansas City tight end Travis Kelce (127,868 votes) and Arizona receiver DeAndre Hopkins (127,039 votes) round out the top five.

Two of the top five vote-getters—Mahomes and Cook—are age 25 while six first- or second-year players currently lead their conference in votes received at their respective positions.

The Steelers, the league's only undefeated team, lead all clubs in total votes received. The Chiefs, Seahawks, Packers and Bills round out the current top five.

Fan voting for the 2021 Pro Bowl continues online until Dec. 17.

Roster selections are determined by the consensus votes of

fans, players and coaches. Each group's vote counts one-third toward determining the 88 all stars. NFL players and coaches will cast their votes on Dec. 18.

## Baltimore (6-4) at Pittsburgh (10-0)

One of the NFL's best and most physical rivalries, but the Ravens are struggling and lost their past two games, while, clearly, the Steelers are surging.

The Steelers are the 17th team since 1970 to start a season 10-0. Their 10-game winning streak is the second-longest single-season string in franchise history: The 1975 team won 11 straight on its way to the team's second straight Super Bowl title. The Steelers can clinch a playoff berth with a win and losses by the Raiders and the Dolphins.

This game was moved from Thursday night because of the Ravens' coronavirus issues.

Baltimore will be without running backs J.K. Dobbins and Mark Ingram, along with defensive tackle Brandon Williams, all of whom are on reserve/COVID-19 list.

## Tennessee (7-3) at Indianapolis (7-3)

Both of these AFC South leaders won in overtime with comebacks last week. The Colts already won at Tennessee see this month.

Tennessee has its best record after 10 games since going 10-0 in 2008, in part because the Titans have a league-low five turnovers. Derrick Henry became the first player in league history with multiple overtime rushing touchdowns in a single season and leads the NFL with 1,079 yards.

"That's just what they do," Colts defensive coordinator Matt Eberflus says of Tennessee's run game. "They are just

going to stay committed to it, and we have to stay — we feel like we're in good shape in terms of our perseverance, in terms of our discipline and we will want to take that in the game and being able to finish."

The Colts have won four of their past five overall and four of the past five in this series. QB Philip Rivers (right big toe) hopes to make his 235th consecutive start, which would break a tie with Eli Manning for the 10th-most starts in league history.

## Chicago (5-5) at Green Bay (7-3)

Neither side comes into this renewal of the league's longest rivalry playing their best. Indeed, Chicago has dropped four in a row as its offense has disappeared. Green Bay is 3-3 after a 4-0 start.

The Packers have won their past four home matchups with

the Bears. Green Bay has gone 19-5 against Chicago when Aaron Rodgers is the starting quarterback.

Seattle (7-3) at Philadelphia (3-6-1), Monday night

Clearly, the way the Eagles have played has made their NFC East lead a mirage. And they're in the midst of the toughest part of their schedule.

## Las Vegas (6-4) at Atlanta (3-7)

Lack of defense could be decisive here. The Raiders have 11 sacks in the first 10 games, ranking 31st in the league. They allowed Kansas City to score touchdowns on two drives of at least 90 yards last week after giving up none in the first nine games. And they lost that game for just the third time in the past seven seasons when scoring at least 30 points.

The Falcons have 17 sacks to rank 24th in the league.



**BOSTON**— Could the Red Sox add a Wild

Horse to their outfield in 2021?

The Red Sox join the Houston Astros and Baltimore Orioles among the teams that have free-agent outfielder Yasiel Puig "on their radar" as he plots a 2021 return, according to *MLB.com*'s Mark Feinsand.

Puig, who last played for the Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Indians in 2019, was sidelined during the 2020 season after a positive COVID-19 test in July nixed his expected deal with the Atlanta Braves.

The 29-year-old announced his intention to play in 2021,

## Red Sox have Puig on radar in free agency

though, and recently signed with agent Rachel Luba.

The Red Sox may need outfield help if Jackie Bradley Jr. leaves in free agency. The Astros reportedly have made signing the veteran center fielder a "priority" this off-season, although Boston has made contact with him as well.

Puig earned an All-Star nod with the Dodgers in his second major league season and spent six years in Los Angeles before the team traded him to Cincinnati in December 2018.

He hasn't batted above .267 since that 2014 All-Star cam-

paign but mashed 24 home runs with 84 RBIs in 149 games in 2019.

Ironically enough, Puig and Bradley also are plotting a throwing contest involving reigning Cy Young Award winner (and current free agent) Trevor Bauer.

If the throwing contest is at Fenway Park, perhaps Puig can stay in Boston when it's over.

### Giants eyeing Lester

In search of starting pitching depth, the Giants reportedly are interested in the one that got away.

Six years after a hard push for Jon Lester that ultimately fell just short, the Giants are interested in adding the veteran left-hander to their rotation.

The Giants were one of Lester's top three choices during the 2014 offseason and made several offers, but that chase famously ended with then-GM Bobby Evans standing in a hallway and telling reporters, "We did not receive a rose." Lester ended up choosing the Chicago Cubs over the Boston Red Sox, and the signing was one of the most impactful of the last decade. Lester won 77 games in

six years in Chicago, made two All-Star teams, and helped the Cubs finally win a World Series in 2016, when current Giants GM Scott Harris worked in Chicago's front office.

Lester, who turns 37 in January, is coming off two consecutive down seasons. He had a 4.46 ERA, 4.26 FIP and 1.49 WHIP in 2019, and in 12 starts last season he had a 5.16 ERA, 5.14 FIP, and just 6.2 strikeouts per nine, a career-low. Lester's fastball velocity dipped to around 89 mph in 2020.

The Giants, though, have holes to fill in their rotation.

Drew Smyly fled for the Braves, and the current group has just one left-handed option (Tyler Anderson, who is arbitration-eligible). President of baseball operations Farhan Zaidi said last week that the Giants would look at plenty of options.

The Giants hoped to add Lester to their title defense during the 2014 offseason and pushed hard after falling short on Pablo Sandoval and Yasmani Tomas. They sent a contingent that included Buster Posey to meet with Lester, but he called Evans late in the process and informed him that he would choose between the Red Sox, his original team in the big leagues, and Cubs. (AP/NBC)

# 2021 NBA All-Star Weekend in Indy postponed

**INDIANAPOLIS—** Add the 2021 NBA All-Star Weekend in Indianapolis to the long list of things the coronavirus (and haphazard national response to it) has taken away from us.

As expected, the NBA announced Wednesday that the 2021 NBA All-Star Game scheduled for next February in Indianapolis has been postponed. The city will host the game in 2024.

“While we are disappointed that the NBA All-Star Game will not take place in Indianapolis in 2021, we are looking forward to the Pacers and the city hosting the game and surrounding events in 2024,” NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement. “I want to thank Herb Simon, Steve Simon, Rick Fuson and the entire Pacers organization as well as the NBA All-Star 2021 Host Committee and the community of Indianapolis for working with us to reschedule our All-Star activities.”

The NBA is still going to have All-Star teams—with fans playing a role in the vote—and have some kind of recognition of the players. The league has not said anything about canceling the All-Star Game itself, however, getting players together for essentially an exhibition game during a pandemic would be an interesting choice. Of course, there are a lot of variables in play



**AP**  
In this Feb. 16, 2020 file photo, Team LeBron's Luka Doncic (C) is defended by Team Giannis' Donovan Mitchell, left, during the NBA All-Star Game in Chicago. Next year's All-Star Weekend in Indianapolis has been postponed.

(that's a big broadcast weekend for Turner/TNT). Bottom line, there will not be All-Star festivities in the traditional sense.

All the NBA officially said was, “Plans for a revised NBA All-Star 2021 will be announced at a later date.”

The next three All-Star Game locations are: 2022 in Cleveland, 2023 in Salt Lake City, and 2024 in Indianapolis

“We are excited about the opportunity to bring Indiana the very best All-Star experience in 2024,” Pacers owner Herb Simon said in a statement. “The efforts of so many Hoosiers to prepare for NBA All-Star 2021 put us ahead of the game for the hard work to come, and we are so grateful to the NBA for once again recognizing Indianapolis as a city that de-

livers world-class events.

## Clippers not done trading

The Clippers have already let the reigning Sixth Man of the Year walk (choosing to replace him with Serge Ibaka, who is seen as a better playoff fit within the organization). Would the team also move on from their other Sixth Man of the Year winner to remake team chemistry and the roster?

Maybe. Other teams expect the Clippers to consider a trade of Lou Williams, according to reports.

The additions of Ibaka and Luke Kennard (via trade with Detroit) are just the beginning; many rival teams also expect the Clippers to trade Lou Williams in their quest to create a fresh-start environment after they blew a 3-1 series lead to

the Nuggets.

Williams, who averaged 18.1 points and 5.6 assists last season and is in the final year of his contract (\$8 million), would draw a lot of interest on the trade market. He works primarily in isolation or with a good pick-and-roll big man (Harrell) and can go get buckets, although his lack of defense limits how much a team can use him deeper in the postseason.

There were chemistry challenges in the Clippers locker room throughout the season. This had been a unified, lunch-pail, we-play-harder-than-you team two years before that had pushed its way up to the playoffs; when Kawhi Leonard and Paul George landed, they were seen by some as getting time off and favoritism not granted others. The Clippers never got their core guys together on the court enough. As an organization they didn't seem to take building good habits during the regular season seriously enough (unlike the Lakers), and in the end it cost them in the playoffs.

Changing that chemistry is Tyronn Lue's biggest goal as coach, and the front office is

apparently trying to help with some personnel moves. One of them could be a trade of Williams, although in doing so the Clippers would need to find another shot creator to run the second unit (they can stagger George and Leonard more, but that alone is not the answer, the NBA is becoming a league where teams need more and more shot creators).

Just look at it as something to watch, particularly as we move closer to the trade deadline. The buzz around the league is that the Clippers are not done making moves, that they know George and Leonard can be free agents who walk away after this season, and they will do whatever it takes to give them a reason to stay. The Lakers got better this off-season, they are the team to beat in the West (and the NBA), but the Clippers remain the one roster that, on paper, is a threat to them out West.

The Clippers don't want to let this chance slip away.

Carmel's June Yu (18:11), Hopwood Middle School's Charles Guiang (19:47) and Tyrone Manipon (27:49), SIS' Kyle Kramer (18:57), and FMS' Daniel Sano (27:50) rounded out the boys middle school finishers roster.

In the girls middle school, Shoko Litulumar won her first and last qualifying race after registering 18:11. She was the only runner in the girls U14 division

to complete the two-lap course under the 20-minute mark. SIS' Phoenix Gross logged 20 minutes to rank second and was followed by her schoolmate Rebecca Eaton (20:30), FMS' Teneasha Diaz (20:52), Hoo Wang (23:36) and Eva Lizunova (25:50), also from SIS, and Nerita Sellem (27:31) of FMS.

Litulumar and other participants in the first three qualifiers may compete in the middle school's championship races set for Dec. 5, but schools can only field a maximum of 6 runners each in the girls and boys divisions.

## CABRERA

*From Page 24*

Marianas High School's Josh Joson earned entry into the finals next month after joining the third and final qualifier and posting the fastest time in the entire high school field. Joson completed three-lap course in 20:15 beating the times of opening leg winner Rex Pixley (20:31) of SIS and second leg top finisher Peter Hu (22:32) of Agape Christian School.

Pixley also ran in the last qualifier and submitted 21:30 to finish second and SIS went on to dominate the Top 5 in the boys U18 contest with Sam Culp (22:13) placing third and followed by Jimin Woo (22:44) and Jayden Shim (22:49).

Meanwhile, besides Joson, MHS fielded five other runners in the last qualifier with Sildrey Velorio (24:17), Daniel Mar Pablo (25:54), Dylan Mister (25:01), Sam Tengco (31:15), and Kevin Batino (35:26) rounding out the Dol-

phins' finishers list. SIS' Jesus Sablan (24:40) and Mt. Carmel's Robin Alvarez (29:56) also completed the course.

## Lucero, Litulumar win U14 races

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Christian Lucero missed beating his time in the second leg, but still ruled the third and last qualifier in the boys U14 division.

Lucero, who finished the 2.1-mile course for the middle school race around the 14-minute mark, this time registered 15:30, which was enough to push him ahead of 13 other runners in his division.

The FMS student spoiled SIS' bid for a Top 5 sweep, as he beat the Geckos' William Lee (16:05), Gyu Hyeon Park (16:29), Casey Chambers (16:32), and Christian Newman (16:35).

Saipan Community School's Elija Ye (17:15), Dwight Crisostomo (18:21), and David Ye (22:29), Mt.



Brooklynn Susulin, right, poses for a photo with her fellow young riders after a practice round at the Kan Pacific grounds.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Young riders race at the Kan Pacific grounds.

JOSEPH CHIN



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Middle school students compete in the second leg of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series held early this month at the CPA Airport Field.



World pays tribute to legendary Maradona

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Mahomes faces struggling Brady, Bucs

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 'Ryder Gurl' debuts in MRA races



JOSEPH CHIN

Brooklynn Susulin navigates her ATV around the course during the Marianas Racing Association event last Nov. 15 at the Kan Pacific grounds.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**A** confident and brave Brooklynn "Ryder Gurl" Susulin had her first race at the Kan Pacific grounds, drawing praises from spectators as she navigated her way around the course.

Susulin is just 4 years old and among the youngest members of the Marianas Racing Association.

"I enjoyed the ride and can't wait for my best friend, Skylar Togawa, to join me on the track," she said.

The young rider is so at ease on the track that her family did not have a hard time convincing her to hop on her 50cc quad runner and raced against older kids, including



her older sister Harley.

"It's exciting to see my little one riding along her sister Harley's side. She was excited to get on the track. It wasn't challenging to get her to ride the

ATV. It was her idea that she wanted to ride an ATV just like her grandpa Henry (Camacho) and uncle Chris," said Susulin's mother, Vanessa.

Brooklynn amazed her family and MRA members during

the Nov. 15 race, as he rounded the track for the first time, drifting on the turns and dodging the tires.

"Her grandpa was surprised as to how she controlled her ATV. It's definitely nice to see another ATV rider in the family. Brooklynn reminds me of my little sister who used to ride an ATV at that age as well," Vanessa added.

The proud mom was talking of Britney Camacho, who more than a decade ago was a regular competitor in ATV races at the former CowTown Raceway. Britney is now based in Washington.

Meanwhile, Marianas Racing Association vice president Cuki Alvarez said their group would love to see more kids join their weekly rides and eventually hold a competition

**See MRA on Page 23**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brooklynn Susulin's aunt, Britney Camacho, is seen here riding her ATV during a competition at the former CowTown Raceway more than a decade ago.

## Cabrera completes sweep of qualifiers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan International School's Tiana Cabrera went 3-for-3 in the qualifying races for the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series after topping the final trial for the girls U18 division Saturday.

The SIS senior rounded out the 3.1-mile course at the CPA Airport Field in 22:45 to beat six other students

in her age group and complete the sweep of the three qualifiers. Cabrera, who reached the finish line last weekend nearly nine minutes ahead of runner-up and fellow SIS student Jinnie Thompson (30:54), is likely to cap her domination of this season's cross country event on Dec. 5 when organizers NMA and PSS hold the championship races.

The Geckos had a Top



3 finish in last weekend's final qualifier, as Pyper Liske-Clark came in at third place with a time of 32:48. Other finishers in the girls U18 race were Mt. Carmel School's Penelope Sablan (33:24) and Amaya Reyes (37:00) and SIS' Rachel Shin (36:16) and Francine Camacho (37:01).

In the boys U18 division,

**See CABRERA on Page 23**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
High school runners, including three-time winner Tiana Camacho, second right, head out to the course during the second leg of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series held early this month at the CPA Airport Field.